

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas, Loretta Sanchez was issued a certificate of election as the duly elected Member of Congress from the 46th District of California by the Secretary of State of California and was seated by the U.S. House of Representatives on January 7, 1997; and

Whereas A Notice of Contest of Election was filed with the Clerk of the House by Mr. Robert Dornan on December 26, 1996; and

Whereas the Task Force on the Contested Election in the 46th District of California met on February 26, 1997 in Washington, D.C. on April 19, 1997 in Orange County, California and October 24, 1997 in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas the allegations made by Mr. Robert Dornan have been largely found to be without merit: charges of improper voting from a business, rather than a resident address; underage voting; double voting; and charges of unusually large number of individuals voting from the same address. It was found that voting from the same address included a Marines barracks and the domicile of nuns, the business addresses were legal residences for the individuals, including the zoo keeper of the Santa Ana zoo, that duplicate voting was by different individuals and those accused of underage voting were of age; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has issued unprecedented subpoenas to the Immigration and Naturalization Service to compare their records with Orange County voter registration records, the first time in any election in the history of the United States that the INS has been asked by Congress to verify the citizenship of voters; and

Whereas the INS has complied with the Committee's request and, at the Committee's request, has been doing a manual check of its paper files and providing worksheets containing supplemental information on that manual check to the Committee on House Oversight for over five months; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight, subpoenaed the records seized by the District Attorney of Orange County on February 13, 1997 and has received and reviewed all records pertaining to registration efforts of that group; and

Whereas the House Oversight Committee is now pursuing a duplicate and dilatory review of materials already in the Committee's possession by the Secretary of State of California; and

Whereas the Task Force on the Contested Election in the 46th District of California and the Committee have been reviewing these materials and has all the information it needs regarding who voted in the 46th District and all the information it needs to make judgments concerning those votes; and

Whereas the Committee on House Oversight has after over nine months of review and investigation failed to present credible evidence to change the outcome of the election of Congresswoman Sanchez and is pursuing never ending and unsubstantiated areas of review; and

Whereas, Contestant Robert Dornan has not shown or provided credible evidence that the outcome of the election is other than

Congresswoman Sanchez's election to the Congress; and

Whereas, the U.S. taxpayers have spent more than \$500,000 on an investigation which has not provided any credible evidence to overturn this election.

Whereas, the Committee on House Oversight should complete its review of this matter and bring this contest to an end and now therefore be it;

Resolved, that unless the Committee on House Oversight has sooner reported a recommendation for its final disposition, the contest in the 46th District of California is dismissed upon the expiration of November 7, 1997.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair's previous citation of the disposition of this matter under rule IX will be entered into the RECORD at this point.

There was no objection.

The text of the Chair's prior statement is as follows:

Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader of the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Texas [Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON] will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 2115

VACATING REQUEST TO LIST MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2676

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCOLLUM). The Chair would like to make the following announcement. The unanimous-consent request earlier today by the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] adding the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] as an original cosponsor of H.R. 2676 was not entertained by the Chair in that form under the precedent recorded on page 666 of the House Rules and Manual.

Since that time, the Chair has been informed that H.R. 2676 has been reported by committee. Without objection, the proceedings surrounding that request are vacated, but the request of the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. LINDER] that the record reflect the intent of the original sponsor, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER], to list the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] as an original cosponsor will appear at this point in the RECORD.

There was no objection.

CHARTER SCHOOLS AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 288 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on

the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2616.

□ 2116

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2616) to amend titles VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools, with Mr. SNOWBARGER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE] and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. DEUTSCH] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware [Mr. CASTLE].

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Just to start this discussion, Mr. Chairman, and the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] will be carrying on here shortly, but I am a strong believer in the charter schools. I was not a supporter of the voucher bill that we just voted on, but I am a total believer that if we are going to deal with experimentation and change in our schools, this is the way to do it.

I have been in every single school in my State. This is Delaware we are talking about. It is 182 schools. I have not been in one of the charter schools, but I have been in our three charter schools which have started.

I think the best way to describe why we should increase this funding authorization from \$15 million to \$100 million and give them some additional latitude with respect to what they are doing is to say what is happening in these schools. The proof is certainly in the pudding when we see it here.

I have been to the charter school at Wilmington, which was sponsored by a consortium of six employers in Delaware and focuses on math and science. It offers the most rigorous academic program in the State, pays teachers based on merit, and emphasizes values and character development.

I have seen and heard of the Positive Outcome School in Dover, which targets children who are at risk of failure in school and who have learning difficulties and emotional problems. Ninety percent of students have attention deficit disorder, and 33 percent are learning-disabled. Positive Outcomes has a 1 to 10 teacher-student ratio.

Yesterday I went to the East Side Charter School in Wilmington, Delaware. It is run by the Wilmington Housing Authority. Every child in that school is a minority child. Nearly 30 percent of the school's students do reside in public housing. It is a K-through-3 school. It offers an 11-month academic year, a 1-to-15 teacher/student ratio, two full-day kindergarten